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lieve but that the illustrations of species published in connection with the "Manual" will do away with most of the usefulness it may have had as a training subject preliminary to advanced studies upon plant life.

Henry L. Bolley
North Dakota Agricultural College,
December 26, 1908

DISTRIBUTION OF THE NOBEL PRIZE

To the Editor of Science: In his interesting and important address as retiring president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, printed in your issue of January 1, Professor Nichols makes two statements regarding which I wish to submit a bit of confirmatory evidence, derived from the awards of the Nobel prizes for the eight years that they have been established.

The two statements are: (1) "The men who have laid the foundations upon which civilization is built have nearly all been teachers and professors." (2) "We have less than our share of men of science."

Each year five Nobel prizes of a value of about $40,000 each are awarded, three of which alone, those in physics, in chemistry, and in physiology and medicine, concern us at present. These are awarded to the persons who have been most serviceable to mankind during the preceding year by making the most important discovery, invention or improvement in the designated field. The other two prizes are for work in literature and for work in the interest of international peace. Of the 24 prizes for scientific work of this description 16½ have been awarded to university professors, 3 more to directors of scientific research institutes, 3 more to teachers in scientific schools of high grade, viz., Royal Institution of London, École Polytechnique, and School of Physics and Industrial Chemistry of Paris (a divided prize) and the Academy of Military Medicine in St. Petersburg, and only 1½ to persons apparently not engaged in teaching. Even if allowance is made for one or two cases, like that of Major Ronald Ross, in which the scientific work was done first and the position as a teacher resulted from it, it seems clear that at least four fifths of these prizes have been awarded to teachers in institutions designed to encourage research.

With reference to the second point quoted above it should be noticed that the Swedish committees of award have shown no tendency to favor Swedish or Scandinavian scientists. They have allotted the prizes to persons in the various countries as follows:

Germany	8	Sweden	1
England	5½	United States	1
France	4½	Italy	½
Denmark	1	Spain	½
Netherlands	1	Total	24
Russia	1		

Does not the above grouping correspond roughly to the order in which most scientists would arrange the great countries with reference to their important contributions to the advance of knowledge and support in an interesting way the second claim of Professor Nichols?

Walter F. Willcox
Cornell University,
January 11, 1909

QUOTATIONS

HARVARD UNIVERSITY AND THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

It seems probable that the taking from the institute by Harvard of two of its leading professors will bring up again the question of a consolidation or of an alliance between these two educational institutions. Recognizing the position occupied by the institute, President Eliot, of Harvard, throughout the whole of his long administration has refrained from developing technical education along extensive lines. His attitude in this respect is the more noticeable when the great development of the university in all other professional fields is considered, and it is also remarkable because during this period there has been great development in technical education in almost all other institutions, the students in technical subjects forming in many institutions by far the larger part of the undergraduate department.